

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 24 are pending in this application.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Wills during the telephone interview held November 16, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0150655 to Itou ("Itou") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0031922 to Clingerman et al ("Clingerman"); and claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Itou in view of Clingerman, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0212194 to Breed ("Breed"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the telephone interview, Itou does not qualify as prior art. This application claims priority from JP 2002-280317, which was filed September 26, 2002. This priority date is before the §102(e) effective filing date of Itou. Itou was filed on January 27, 2003. Applicants submit herewith an accurate English language translation of the JP 2002-280317 to perfect the claim for priority. The English language translation of priority document JP 2002-280317 supports the pending claims. Thus, Itou is disqualified as prior art and the rejections over Itou are moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of the claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PQW/mrh

Attachment:

English language Translation of Priority Document JP 2002-280317

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